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Daily Life in a Cosmopolitan World: Pottery and Culture During the Hellenistic Period

Edited by Annette Peignard Giros

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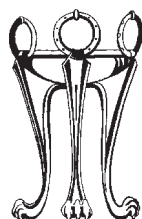
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DAILY LIFE IN A COSMOPOLITAN WORLD: POTTERY AND CULTURE DURING THE HELLENISTIC PERIOD

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Fish-plates in Western Iberia: between internal evolution and the incorporation of the Hellenistic model

Elisa de Sousa

1. Introduction

The classical fish-plate is, undoubtedly, one of the most widespread ceramic morphologies in the Mediterranean world. Its origin is traceable to the late 5th century BC, when the first vessels of this type appear in the framework of the Attic Red Figure repertoire, usually decorated with fishes and other marine life forms in its interior surface. After this time, this morphology was also produced in plain black¹, in which it is definitely more frequent in the archaeological record.

It corresponds to an open and considerably wide vessel, with shallow oblique walls, which converge into an internal central depression that was probably used for drainage or the placement of some type of seasoning, *garum* or other sauces. It normally presents a pendent or thickened rim, a robust ring foot and grooves around the rim and central depression².

Greek fish-plates were produced and widely commercialized throughout most part of the Hellenistic period. The success of this particular type of vessel in the Central and Western Mediterranean world is evidenced by the multiple imitations and adaptations which occurred in different areas, from Carthage to the Iberian Peninsula and Northern Morocco³. This phenomenon is surely linked to the widespread of culinary traditions associated with the consumption of fish and derivative products, which gained a new dynamic mostly during the second half of the 1st millennium BC. It is probably not by coincidence that the appearance of this specific shape in the Greek ceramic repertoire occurs in a phase when Western fish products, particularly those from the Circle of the Strait of Gibraltar, arrive in significant amounts in the Balkan Peninsula⁴, and their fame was recorded in classical literature texts.

During the 4th century BC, the importation of Greek fish-plates in the Iberian Peninsula, both in Red Figure and plain black, was apparently not very common, with the exception of the Northeastern area, which enjoyed more intense contacts with Western Greek colonies⁵. Nonetheless, it had strong implications in regional trends of food consumption and alimentary habits throughout the entire Southern area. However, and in the framework of the Southern Iberian productions, the reproduction of “fish-plates” seems to have also been influenced by other local traditions, developed during the previous centuries in the context of the evolution of Western Phoenician tableware. The consumption of fish and the production of derivative products in Phoenician-Punic spheres are well documented both in ancient literature⁶ and in the archaeological record, particularly in the Western World⁷. Therefore, it is not surprising that we observe a certain evolution in the framework of Western Phoenician tableware, particularly in the Red Slip ware, that seems to have adapt to the increasing importance that this type of food reached in this area⁸: especially during the 6th century BC, Phoenician plates, which initially exhibit a considerable depth, evolve to shallower shapes, with a consistent increase of the rims area and the subsequent formation of a central depression. These characteristics were already interpreted as an

1 SPARKES – TALCOTT 1970, 147–148.

2 SPARKES – TALCOTT 1970, 147a.

3 MOREL 1981; CHELBI 1992; PRINCIPAL-PONCE 1998; NIVEAU DE VILLEDARY Y MARIÑAS 2003; PONSICH 1969.

4 WILLIAMS 1979; MANIATIS ET AL. 1984.

5 ROUILLARD 1991; GARCÍA I MARTÍN 1999.

6 For a recent synthesis CAMPANELLA – NIVEAU 2005.

7 For a recent synthesis SÁEZ ROMERO 2014a.

8 ESCACENA 1987, 221.

evolution towards the progressive consumption of solid foodstuffs, in which fish and derivative products probably had an important role⁹.

It is possible to consider a relation between this evolution in the Phoenician tableware and the emergence of the Greek fish-plates, considering that they do share specific structural features¹⁰. The appearance of this shape in the Greek world coincides, as already mentioned, with the pinnacle of Western fish products trading in Greece, and the possibility that this commercial phenomenon implicated also the exchange of culinary and food consumption habits must be considered¹¹, even if the hypothesis of a local Greek evolution that originated in the Gallatin plates / stemmed plate should also be taken into consideration¹².

Despite of the debate concerning its origins, it is, without a doubt, the Greek version of the fish-plate that will prevail across the Mediterranean throughout the Classic and Hellenistic Period. Nonetheless, recent data retrieved in Western Iberia indicates its coexistence with other traditions that seems to have developed within a regional framework and that can be traced back to the evolution of Western Phoenician tablewares.

2. Greek fish-plates in Western Iberia

In the Portuguese territory, Greek fish-plates are considerably rare, with only 22 fragments documented so far. The majority were recovered in littoral settlements, namely Alcácer do Sal (Alentejo) and Castro Marim (Algarve), and one other in a more interior area, in Mértola, but that had privileged connections with Southern Atlantic and Mediterranean shores through the course of the Guadiana river (fig. 1).

As for the first case, Alcácer do Sal, all seven fragments were recovered in the site's necropolis, Olival do Senhor dos Mártires¹³, in Red Figure Attic pottery. Four of them seem to belong to the same painter, known as "Pintor de Alcácer do Sal", dating from the first half of the 4th century BC¹⁴.

Another Portuguese site that provided Greek fish-plates is Castro Marim, with a total of fourteen fragments. In this case, all of them are plain black, and are also dated from the 1st half of the 4th century BC¹⁵.

Finally, in Mértola, a single fragment of plain black fish-plate was also recovered¹⁶.

3. Southern Iberian productions: gray ware, Kuass ware and common ware

In the Southern area of the Iberian Peninsula, we can identify at least three different trends that converge or relate to fish-plates models, two of which undoubtedly related with the Hellenistic models.

The most recent contribution to this theme is the identification of an interesting gray ware production in Cadis¹⁷. Although the influence and reproduction of Greek ceramic prototypes can be traced, in this area, to the late 6th century BC, it is during the mid 4th century that the incorporation of Hellenistic morphologies becomes systematic. Although this morphology in gaditanian gray ware (Group 1 of Sáez Romero) is quite similar to the Greek fish-plates, it distinguishes itself mainly by the presence of a flattened base, instead of the typical ring foot. These specific productions in gray ware are, according to the available archaeological data, restricted to the Cádiz area and come to an end during the late 3rd century BC¹⁸. It is, however, important to highlight the production of this same morphology in the so-called "common ware", corresponding to Sáez Romero type GDR 5.1.1, during this same chronological period¹⁹.

⁹ CAMPANELLA – NIVEAU, 2005, 57.

¹⁰ DEL AMO 1970; TRONCHETTI 1991; MOREL 1995.

¹¹ MOREL 1981, 518.

¹² SPARKES – TALCOTT 1970; MCPHEE TRENDALL 1987.

¹³ ROUILLARD ET AL. 1988–1989; GOMES 2017.

¹⁴ ROUILLARD ET AL. 1988–1989, 53.

¹⁵ ARRUDA 1997; ARRUDA – FERREIRA – SOUSA in press.

¹⁶ ARRUDA – BARROS – LOPES 1998.

¹⁷ SÁEZ ROMERO 2014b.

¹⁸ SÁEZ ROMERO 2014b.

¹⁹ SÁEZ ROMERO 2005, 155–156.

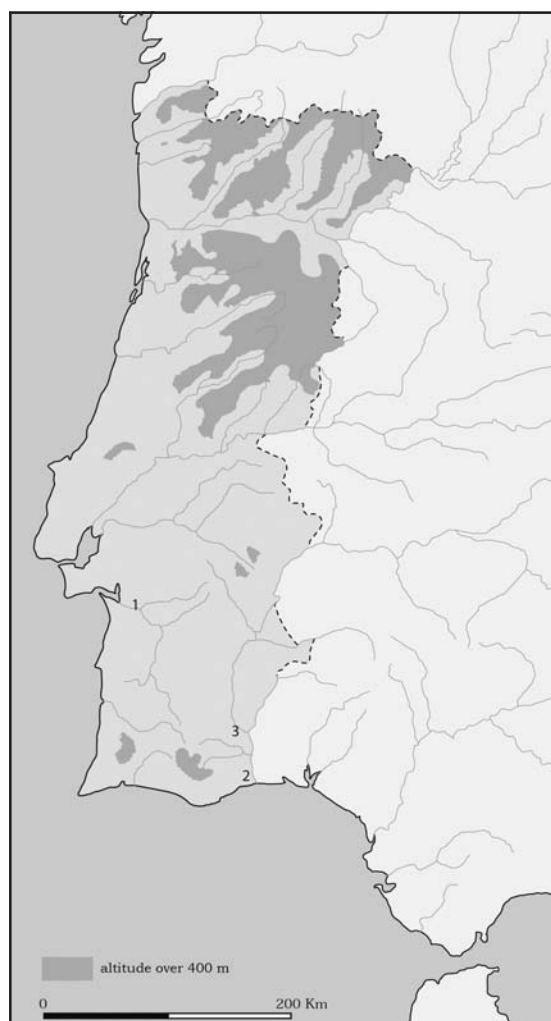


Fig. 1: Greek fish-plates in the Portuguese territory (1 – Alcácer do Sal; 2 – Castro Marim; 3 – Mértola).

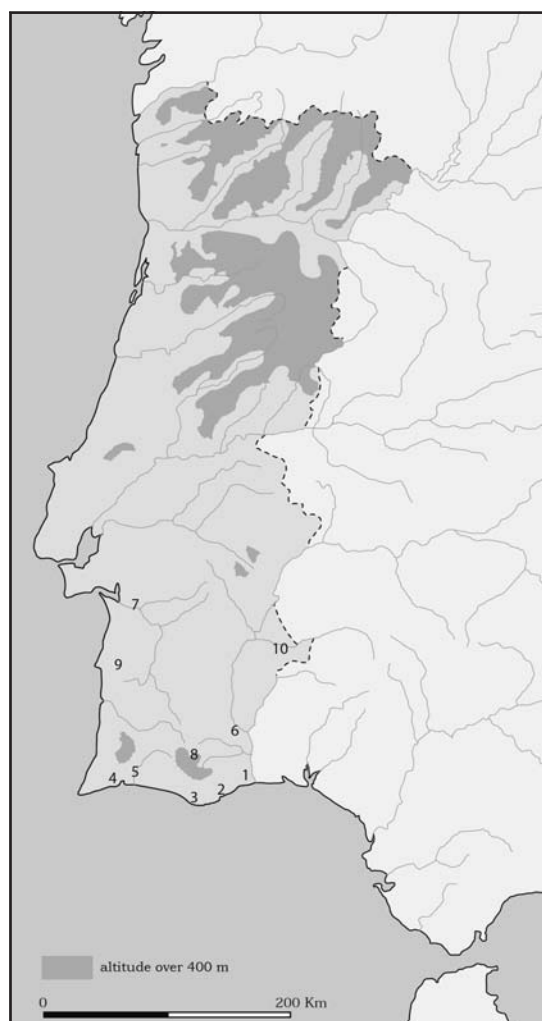


Fig. 2: Kuass fish-plates in the Portuguese territory (1 – Castro Marim; 2 – Tavira; 3 – Faro; 4 – Monte Molião; 5 – Cerro da Rocha Branca; 6 – Mértola; 7 – Alcácer do Sal; 8 – Mesas do Castelinho; 9 – Santiago do Cacém; 10 – Safara).

The most successful reproduction of the Greek fish-plate in Western Iberia was, without a doubt, produced in the so-called Kuass ware. During the late 4th century BC, once again the Cádiz area²⁰ and also other centers located in the “Circle of the Strait of Gibraltar”²¹, engaged in systematic reproductions of Hellenistic prototypes. These Kuass ware productions, which in many aspects reveal a high degree of standardization, although with specific evolutions during its production phase, distinguish itself from other Mediterranean workshops mainly by the recurrent application of red slips, although darker shades were also used. Fish-plates replicated in Kuass ware (type II and particularly the variant II-A of Niveau de Villedary y Mariñas) imitate with extraordinary detail the Greek prototype, and were abundantly produced between the late 4th and the late 2nd / early 1st century BC²².

The emergence of these Western fish-plates during the late 4th century BC probably resulted from the disappearance of Attic black glazed pottery from Western markets, during a time when a strong Hellenization of food consumption habits was already strongly rooted among the

20 NIVEAU DE VILLEDARY Y MARIÑAS 2003.

21 PONSICH 1969; MORENO MEGÍAS 2016.

22 NIVEAU DE VILLEDARY Y MARIÑAS 2003; SOUSA

2009, 2010; NIVEAU DE VILLEDARY Y MARIÑAS – SÁEZ ROMERO 2016.

23 NIVEAU DE VILLEDARY Y MARIÑAS, 2003.

Southern Iberian communities, which was reflected in a strong demand of Greek table ware prototypes²³.

In more interior areas of Andalusia, specifically in the Guadalquivir Valley, local communities also adapted the Greek fish-plate model, probably through gaditanian influence²⁴. As it occurs with the Cadiz gray and common ware, these “turdetanian” prototypes rarely use ring foots, preferring a flattened or slightly concave profile base, appearing with (type Escacena II-C) and without a pendent rim (Escacena II-D). They are normally decorated with red or violet concentric circles, sometimes combined with darker shades²⁵.

From these three tendencies that relate to the production of fish-plates in Southern Iberia, only two are represented in the Portuguese territory: Kuass wares and “turdetanian” models.

The Kuass fish-plates (Niveau type II) are, undoubtedly, the most abundant. They appear associated both with Iron Age (late 4th and 3rd century BC) and Late Republican contexts (late 2nd and early 1st century BC) in several areas of Southern Portugal. In the region of Algarve they are particularly abundant and were so far documented in Castro Marim (33 fragments – 31 NMI²⁶), Faro (153 fragments – 133 NMI²⁷) and Monte Molião (154 fragments – 124 NMI²⁸). Other sites in Algarve, such as Cerro da Rocha Branca and Tavira, seem also to have imported this type, considering the published references to red slip wares from type Lamboglia 23²⁹, which quite probably correspond also with Kuass wares. In Alentejo, the Kuass fish-plates are well documented in Mértola³⁰, particularly during the roman republican period³¹, as well as in Mesas do Castelinho³², Castelo Velho de Safara³³, Santiago do Cacém³⁴ and probably in also Alcácer do Sal³⁵ (fig. 2).

The commercialization and diffusion of other fish-plate models during the Late Iron Age, particularly the ones related with “turdetanian” spheres, which generally display painted concentric stripes in the interior surface, is less frequent, appearing in Castro Marim³⁶ and Faro³⁷ (fig. 3). Others, also imported from Andalusia, show no evidences of painted decoration, and could belong either to vessels of turdetanian or gaditanian tradition. Nonetheless, in total, the number of non-Kuass fishplates is extremely reduced in Southern Portugal, with only 24 fragments (20 NMI), and only one of these, recovered in Faro, was locally produced. As for the Late Roman Republican period, the only available data concerning common ware fish-plates was retrieved in Monte Molião, where 84 fragments (74 NMI) of Cadis productions were recovered, and 4 fragments (4 NMI) of local production³⁸ (fig. 4).

4. Western Atlantic Iberian productions

In the Western central Atlantic coast of Portugal we witness the appearance of certain morphological prototypes that recall specific aspects of the fish-plate during the mid 1st millennium BC, although it is still unclear if they result mainly from an independent evolution of the Phoenician red slip ware or if the arrival of Greek prototypes may have exerted some influence in the emergence of these shapes.

4.1. Sado area

In the estuary of Sado river, regional versions that share structural characteristics with the classical model of the fish-plate appear with some frequency in Alcácer do Sal, both in the habitat area and in the site's necropolis, Olival do Senhor dos Mártires.

24 GARCÍA FERNÁNDEZ 2014.

25 ESCACENA 1987; FERRER ALBELDA – GARCÍA FERNÁNDEZ 2008.

26 SOUSA 2009.

27 SOUSA 2009.

28 SOUSA – ARRUDA 2013; SOUSA 2010.

29 GOMES 1993; MAIA 2007.

30 REGO – GUERRERO – GÓMEZ 1996.

31 SORIA – PALMA 2017.

32 ESTRELA 2010.

33 SOARES 2001; COSTA 2010.

34 SOARES – SILVA 1979.

35 GOMES 2016.

36 SOUSA 2009, 175–176.

37 SOUSA 2009, 188.

38 SOUSA – ARRUDA 2014a; 2014b; SOUSA – PEREIRA – ALVES 2015.

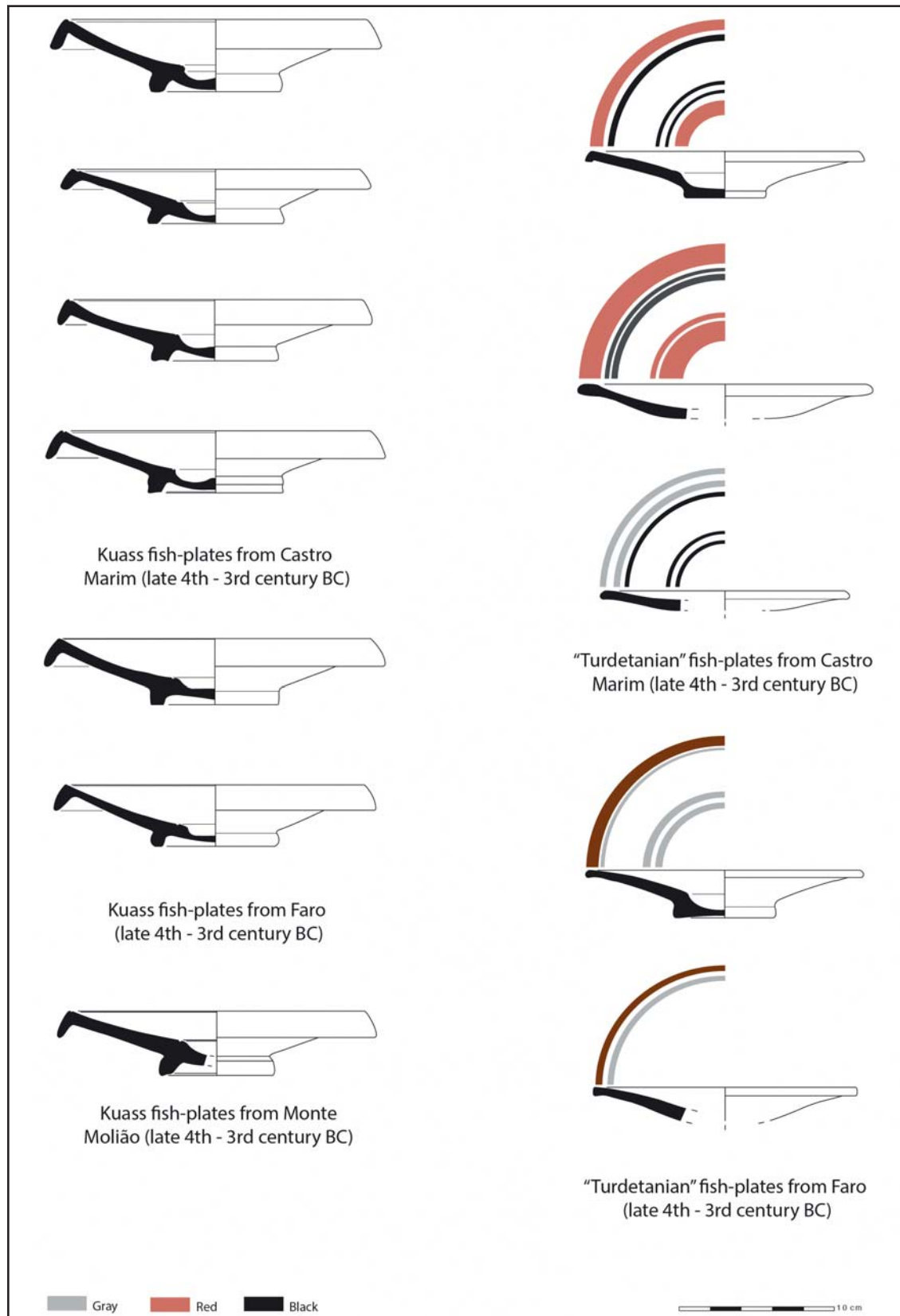


Fig. 3: Iron Age Kuass and "turdetanian" fish-plates from Algarve (according to ARRUDA 1997; SOUSA 2009, SOUSA – ARRUDA 2013).

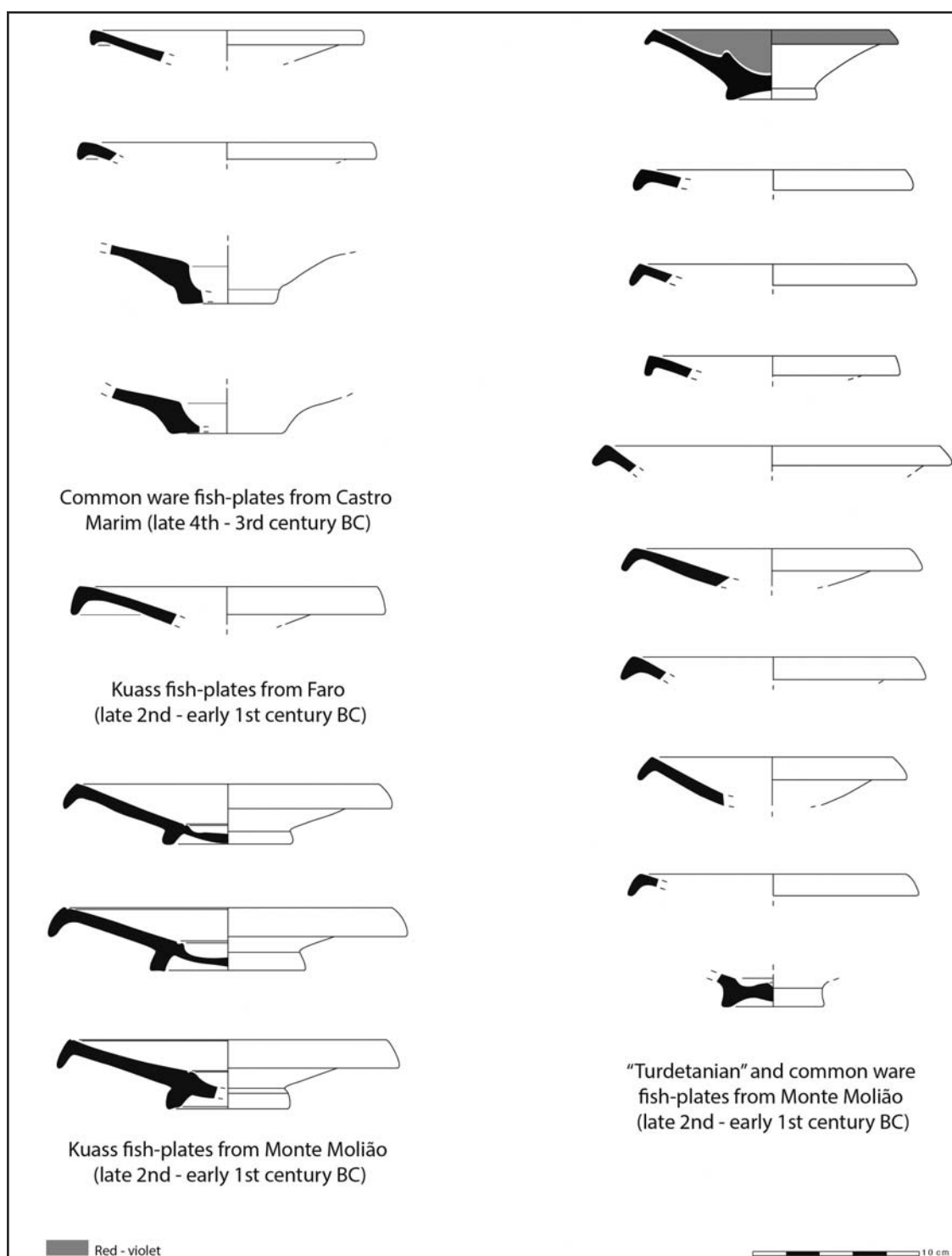


Fig. 4: Common, Kuass and "turdetanian" fish-plates from Algarve (according to SOUSA – ARRUDA 2013; SOUSA – ARRUDA 2014b; SOUSA – PEREIRA – ALVES 2015).

A recent study that focused in the necropolis of Olival do Senhor dos Mártires has provided interesting data concerning the evolution of red slip plates throughout the 1st millennium BC. As it was observed for other areas in the Iberian Peninsula, some Phoenician plates of the Sado region evolve, specially during the 7th and 6th century BC, towards shallower vessels, with an increasing widening of the internal rim areas, which lead to the formation of a central internal depression. In graves dated from the mid 6th century BC (n.º 12/80) from Olival do Senhor dos Mártires,

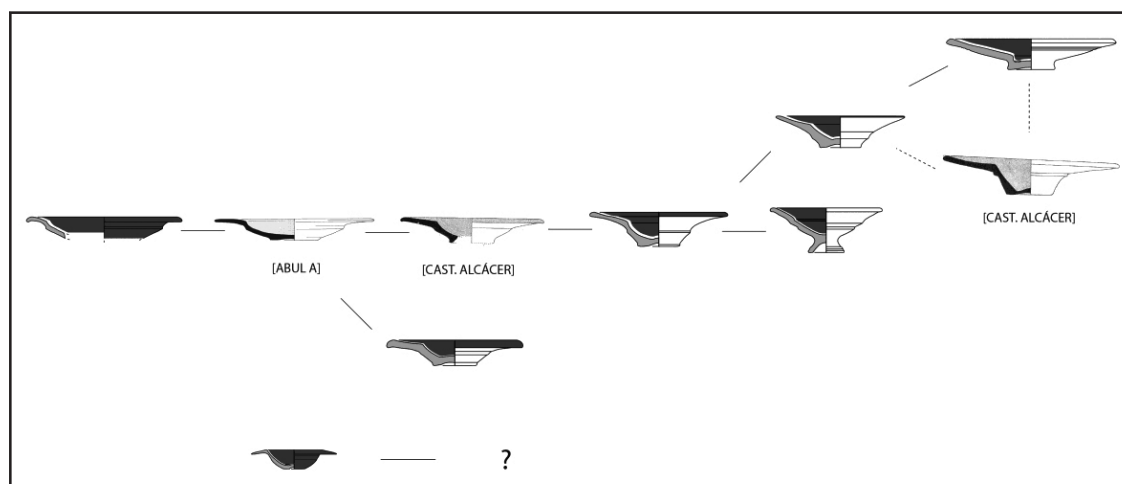


Fig. 5: Evolution of Sado's red slip plates (according to GOMES 2016).

we already observe the existence of red slip plates in which the existence of this central depression is already quite visible, as well as the progressive horizontality and width of the rim³⁹ (fig. 5).

It is, however, during the late 5th or 4th century BC that we observe the emergence of more evolved types, which exhibit remarkable similarities with the some turdetanian prototypes (type Escacena II-D). Unlike the Greek models, these Sado plates do not exhibit a pendent rim, but instead a simple profile or a slightly indicated rim. The scarcity of data related with Alcácer do Sal diachronic evolution of its material culture makes it difficult to establish an exact chronological moment for the appearance of this type of vessel. Although it is clear an evolution from previous forms, the imports of Greek fish-plates, as showed in the sites necropolis, which occurred during the 1st half of the 4th century BC, may have had a determining influence in the consolidation of this shape, which appears in several areas of the habitat⁴⁰ (fig. 6).

4.2. Tagus area

In the Tagus area there is so far no evidence of the presence of the classical “fish-plate”, either in Greek pottery⁴¹ or in any other Southern Iberian productions.

There is, however, a specific type of shape that exhibits specific characteristics that do recall the features of a fish-plate, which appears in the archaeological record during the late 5th / early 4th century BC⁴². It corresponds to *paterae* with an everted rim, horizontal walls and a deep central depression, produced both in red slip (type 4Aa⁴³) and common ware (types 4Aa, 4Ba and 4Bb⁴⁴). Its direct relation with fish-plates is difficult to assess, considering that the classical type was not found so far in the area. However, one must consider the possibility that this absence may be related with the lack of funerary data in the area. We recall that in Alcácer do Sal all of the Greek fish-plates were recovered in the site's necropolis, and none in the habitat. Nonetheless, the hypothesis of an internal evolution of Phoenician plates, similar to the one established in Alcácer do Sal, must also be considered. As a matter of fact, the same evolution in the framework of Phoenician red slip wares, towards shallower vessels, with an increasing widening of the internal rim area and the formation of a central internal depression, is also documented during the 6th century BC in the Lisbon area⁴⁵ (fig. 6).

³⁹ GOMES 2016.

⁴⁰ SILVA ET AL. 1980–1981; SOUSA 2015; ARRUDA ET AL 2017.

⁴¹ ARRUDA – SOUSA 2018.

⁴² SOUSA 2014.

⁴³ SOUSA 2014.

⁴⁴ SOUSA 2014.

⁴⁵ SOUSA 2017.

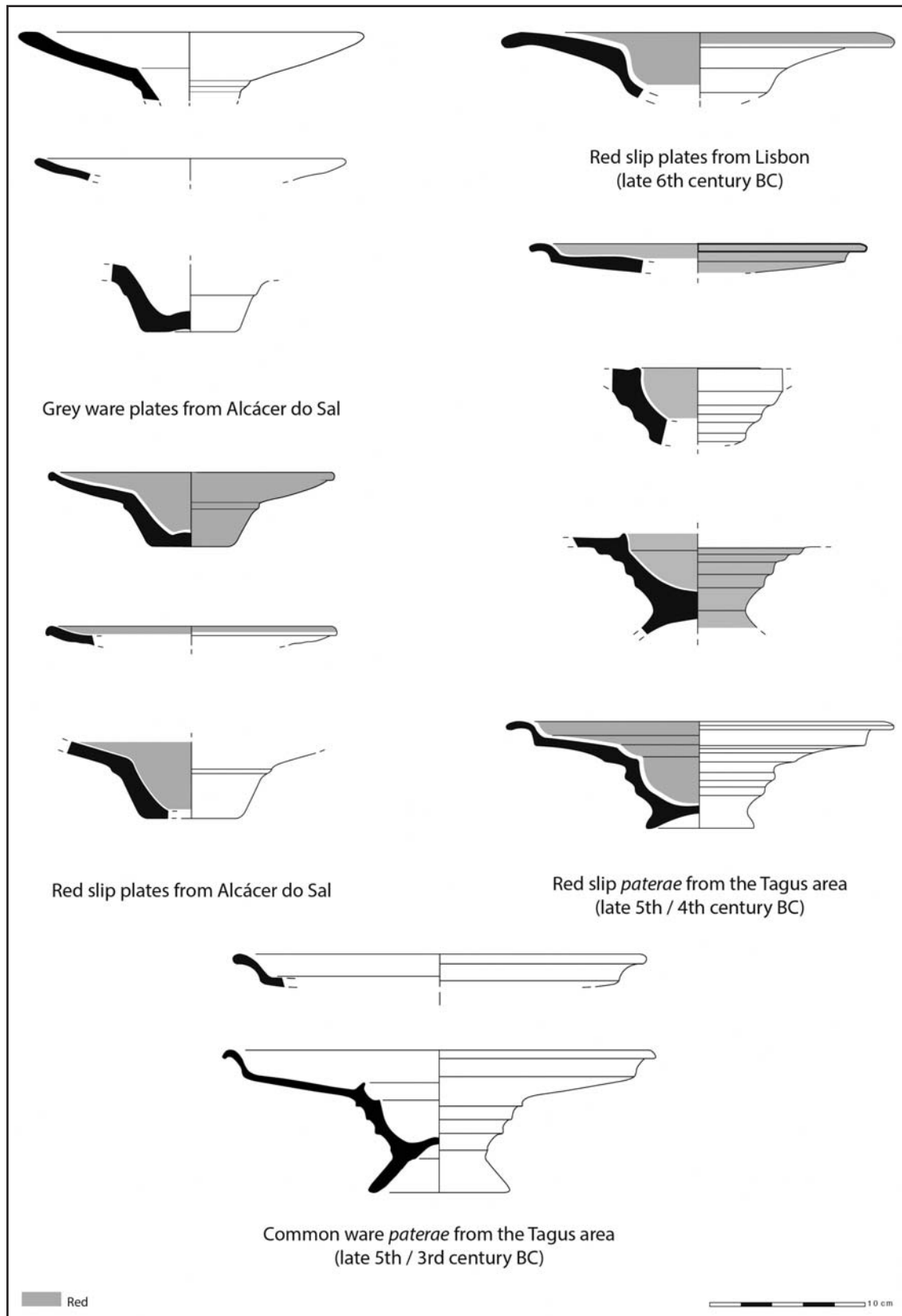


Fig. 6: Grey and red slip plates from the Sado and Tagus region (according to ARRUDA ET AL. in press; SOUSA 2014, 2015, 2017, BARROS – CARDOSO – SABROSA 1993).

5. Conclusions

Despite of the scarcity of Greek fish-plates imports in Western Iberia, the reproductions of this prototype during the late 4th and 3rd century BC are quite abundant, particularly in the Southern area of the Portuguese territory⁴⁶. This widespread of the classical shape is due mainly to the intense commercialization of Kuass ware productions, in which this prototype (Niveau type II-A) was imitated with an extraordinary detail, even if the color of its coating (reddish tones) was mostly adapted to the Semitic traditions that still prevailed in these Western areas⁴⁷. Nonetheless, other types of reproductions that occurred, during the same period, also in the Cádiz area and in the Guadalquivir interior Valley, in common and painted wares, also had a considerable weight in the Western markets, particularly in the region of Algarve. Although these latter reproductions are not quite meticulous in detail as the Kuass ware, which could be related to the convergence or hybridization with other local traditions in habits of consumption of solid foodstuffs⁴⁸, its functional use justifies its dispersion throughout the Southern Portugal area, both during the Late Iron Age (late 4th and 3rd century BC) and the Roman Republican period (late 2nd – early 1st century BC).

An interesting tendency observable in the archaeological record of the Southern Western area is actually the endurance of these fish-plate productions, both in Kuass and in common ware, during the Roman Republican period. In a time when the Campania table wares already arrived in abundant quantities to this region, the weight of these Western Iberian productions is still quite significant in the framework of material culture. Although the justification for this phenomenon may be related with supplying needs generated in the framework of the initial phase of distribution of the Italic tableware in the Western Iberian area, another interpretation can be taken into consideration: the continuous production of the fish-plate in Kuass and common ware, in a time when this prototype was no longer produced in the Campania ware repertoire. As a matter of fact, Campania type A fish-plates (Lamboglia 23 / Morel species 1120) appear in almost insignificant quantities only in Mesas do Castelinho⁴⁹ and Monte Molião⁵⁰.

The importance of this shape in the local habits of food consumption, since at least the late 4th century BC, may have dictated a strong demand for the fish-plate classical model, ensuring the continuity, at least until the early 1st century BC, of the Kuass ware and other similar productions in common pottery⁵¹.

A different situation seems to have occurred in the Atlantic Western shores of the Portuguese territory, specifically in the estuaries of the rivers Sado and Tagus. Where, it is not yet possible to establish the exact pathway in which these influences reached the local ceramic repertoires, or its precise role. Future data will surely enable a more exact reading concerning the chronological moment of the appearance of local morphological shapes that share important structural similarities with the classic fish-plate model, which will allow to establish if the imports of Greek vessels, already documented in Alcácer do Sal, may have had a key role in the formation of these central Atlantic types. However, preliminary data seems to indicate an important weight of the local evolution of Phoenician red slip plates, particularly during the 6th century BC, which converge towards models that present horizontal walls and central internal depressions. It is important to recall, at this point, some aspects of the debate concerning the origin of the Greek fish-plate model, namely the possibility of Phoenician food consumption habits, particularly the ones related with fish derivative products, may have influenced the appearance of this shape in the Greek repertoire. If this was, in fact, the case, we would witness an interesting circle in the framework of the formation and development of the fish-plate, which involved different influences: an origin in the Phoenician-Punic world, which was adopted and transformed in the

46 SOUSA 2009; SOUSA 2010; SOUSA – ARRUDA 2013.

47 NIVEAU DE VILLEDARY Y MARIÑAS 2003.

48 GARCIA FERNANDEZ – SAEZ ROMERO – FERRER ALBELDA 2016.

49 ALVES 2010.

50 DIAS 2010.

51 SOUSA 2010, 2016.

Greek spheres, and latter reintroduced in the Mediterranean and in the Western world, where it coexisted with independent evolutions that share the same basic structure.

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Preface

The second volume of the International Association for Research on Pottery of the Hellenistic Period e. V. (IARPotHP) presents the proceedings of the second conference organized by our Association.

This conference with the title *Daily life in a cosmopolitan world: Pottery and culture during the Hellenistic period* took place at the Université Lumière Lyon 2, from the 5th to the 8th of November 2015. It was a very successful conference with many lectures and posters, from which as many as 50, are included in this volume. The Board of the Association and myself would like to warmly thank all persons who were involved in the organization of the conference and participated in it, as well as, all persons involved in the preparation of these proceedings and especially, Dr Annette Peignard-Giros, the editor of the Association for the years 2015–2019.

Our thanks also go to the authorities of the Lyon 2 University, and the research team HiSoMA (UMR 5189 – Lyon) for hosting our conference, and for their support in organizing it.

We are also grateful to HiSoMA for its financial support for the printing of this volume. Equally, we would like to express our gratitude to our printing house, the Phoibos Verlag in Vienna.

The third volume of the IARPotHP conference series, the proceedings of the symposium held in Kaštela (Croatia) on the 1st–4th of June 2017, is now in the process of preparation by the editors, Ivanka Kamberjarin and Marina Ugarković, and will be published soon after the Lyon volume.

Our great honour is to call attention to the fact that during the General Assembly in Kaštela, Dr John W. Hayes, one of the most distinguished scholars in the field of research into Hellenistic (and Roman) ceramics, was elected as a honorary member of IARPotHP.

With the publication of this volume, the tradition of our association and conferences organized by it, is strengthened. Also, our association's contribution to research into Hellenistic pottery and its further development is being increased.

Krakow, 25. 09. 2019

Ewdoksia Papuci-Władyka
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Introduction by the editor: the aim of the meeting

When J. G. Droysen applied the name of «Hellenistic» to the period following the death of Alexander the Great, he had in mind the image of a period of contact between Greek culture and the local people integrated in the newly conquered territories. The idea of an «Hellenization» of local «ethne» was replaced, during the last decades of the 20th century, by the concepts of interconnection and of «cultural transfers» between Greco-Macedonian settlers and local populations.

Since the end of 19th century, archaeologists have tried to use the artifacts, and particularly ceramics, to address the topic of interaction between Greek and local traditions, and the «identities» of the various ethnic groups that lived together, or sometimes simply side by side, in the large territories of the Hellenistic kingdoms.

From an economic point of view, some scholars have tried to interpret the Hellenistic period as the first globalization period, considering the trading networks that combine local and long-distance exchanges.

Pottery is one of the clues that can be used to address those complex questions. It is an artifact which is used everywhere and produced in almost every town or village in the Mediterranean during the Antiquity, and Hellenistic pottery has been frequently used to try to define what was Hellenic and what was local in the instrumentum used by people living in the areas conquered by Alexander and ruled by his successors.

The main impact of Alexander's conquest was, for people who were not familiar with Greek culture, a direct contact with Hellenism. The «colonists» who were settling in areas far away from their native Macedonian or Greek cities, brought with them their customs, their own cooking and drinking traditions, and their traditional dishes. But after some time, they had to replace the broken or damaged pottery vessels, and needed to use local potters abilities, and supply sources. For instance, in some region of the Levant, there was no clay that could produce a good shining black gloss, nor a tradition of black slipped pottery. The Greek dwellers had some specific requests, and the local potters had to cope both with them, as well as with the technical possibilities they had. Most probably, the Greeks or their descendant had also to adapt to the local craftsmen abilities and clay supply. Their presence, and their relationships with local populations had an impact on both their own way of living, and the local people's traditions. Can we imagine, for instance, that starting a family, or having local servants, would have no consequence on the food one would be eating (and would have access to)?

But this is a very general point of view, and there were certainly a large variety of situations in the various areas of the Hellenistic kingdoms. First of all, the economic patterns were different, for example, on the Ionian coast, compared to remote regions of Bactria or Syria. Some places were not deeply affected by the conquest, and the indigenous tribes and people continued to live as they had lived before, except that they were paying their taxes to a new king. Can we see on their pottery any impact from the Greek types? In some small villages of Mesopotamia, for instance, only a few sherds witness the importation of Greek pottery, and the influence of Greek shapes on local pottery is very limited: the inturned-rim bowls, for instance, are not slipped, and they lack the usual ring base of Greek examples.

In some other places, like in Palestine, the absence of Greek pottery can be interpreted as a mark of resistance against Hellenic eating and drinking habits, considered as unacceptable by the religious and/or social traditions.

On the other hand, pottery can also be a means of ethnic identification for Greek people: drinking wine, taking part of symposia, offering specific shapes to the dead or the gods, might be considered, for the descendant of the first colonist, as a way of marking their ethnic identity, and

make the difference with the local people. Some table customs imported by the conquerors were adopted by the local elites, in order to keep their rank and be associated to the new rulers.

Various questions arise when one tries to evaluate through pottery the impact of the Hellenistic “globalization” on everyday life in the various regions of the Hellenistic kingdoms:

- Who had a direct access to the Greek prototypes, i.e. how involved were the different regions in the large-scale trade?
- Which influence had large trade centers (which produced vases that traveled everywhere in the Mediterranean) on local products?
- What was the impact of Greek influence on shape, decoration, and use of the vases, considering a large variety of local situations?

The aim of the papers of this 2nd meeting of the IARPotHP was not to address the general concepts of «hellenization», «cultural transfer», or «middle ground», but to study precisely the material found in some specific sites, taking into account the nature of the deposits (houses, graves, shipwrecks ...). And to try to understand how we can interpret the data on pottery of a specific site, in a regional and international contexts.

The local studies of pottery deposits can give us the opportunity to see, at least at a regional level, how people really lived, ate and drank, using (or not) vessels from various traditions, and what it meant for them to live in a multicultural world.

The relations can be seen through the repertoire of vessel shapes (fish-plates, echinus bowls, carinated bowls ...), which are attested all over the Mediterranean, as well as through the amphoras travelling from east to west and vice versa.

Nevertheless, the two kinds of objects, vessels and amphoras, testify different levels of cultural interactions. Imports of Greek amphoras, mainly Rhodian or Cnidian ones, in various places of the Mediterranean are evidence of commercial networks, and were purchased for their contents. Consumption of Greek wine is a good indicator of new practices in the Levant, for instance. On the other hand, imports of Italian amphoras in the eastern Mediterranean show the new developments of Roman economy in the newly conquered regions.

Importation and imitation of Greek shapes are more related to daily life, and to social behaviours. They may be evidence of changes in cooking habits, or simply to new fashions in food or drink consumptions, or in table habits.

The papers collected in this volume show local situations all over the Mediterranean: during the Hellenistic period, all regions were affected by contacts with Hellenistic kingdoms, and the western Mediterranean was not disconnected from the Eastern regions. During the early Hellenistic period, Italy and Sicily were touched by the influence of Attic pottery, and the interaction between Italy and the Hellenistic east grew when the Romans started to interfere, both economically and politically, in the eastern Mediterranean, by the end of the 3rd c. BC. That is one of the main reasons why we have in this volume so many papers dedicated to pottery in Italy, Sicily, as from Greece, Asia Minor, and eastern parts of the Seleucid kingdom.

The aim of this series of papers is to focus on local situations, and try to find the evidence of new shapes and new decorations on table ware, cooking wares and transport amphoras, and try to evaluate, on this ground, how pottery illustrates, in various regions, the impact of Hellenism, and how Hellenism was adapted to or influenced by new local traditions.

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